U. S. Gov't
Master
Specification
No. 259a

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

BUREAU OF STANDARDS

George K. Burgess, Director

CIRCULAR OF THE BUREAU OF STANDARDS, No 261

[2d ed. issued November 3, 1927]

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT MASTER SPECIFICATION FOR RAGS, COTTON, COLORED, FOR WIPING MACHINERY (STERILIZED)

FEDERAL SPECIFICATIONS BOARD SPECIFICATION No. 259a

[Revision Promulgated July 11, 1927, Supersedes F. S. B. Spec. 259]

This specification was officially promulgated by the Federal Specifications Board on December 6, 1924, for the use of the departments and independent establishments of the Government in the purchase of colored cotton rags for wiping machinery (sterilized).

[The latest date on which the technical requirements of this revision of this specification shall become mandatory for all departments and independent establishments of the Government is October 11, 1927. They may be put into effect, however, at any earlier date after promulgation.]

CONTENTS

		Page
I.	General specifications	1
II.	Grade	1
III.	Material	2
IV.	General requirements	2
V.	Detail requirements	2
VI.	Method of inspection and tests	3
VII.	Packing and marking of shipments	3
VIII.	Notes	3

I. GENERAL SPECIFICATIONS

United States Government general specification for textile materials (methods of physical and chemical tests), Federal Specifications Board specification No. 345, in effect on date of invitation for bids, shall form a part of this specification wherever applicable.

II. GRADE

This specification covers one grade only. This grade shall be that known as No. 1 colored wiper, household.

69390°—27

III. MATERIAL

The rags shall be cotton. They shall be free from starched or stiffened pieces, as poplins, sateens, and kindred lustrous fabrics.

They shall be free from buttons, hooks, eyes, grit, and dirt. All sleeves and body garments shall be cut open.

The rags shall be washed and sterilized.

They shall be soft, absorbent, lightweight, and dry.

No all-black rags shall be included. At least 50 per cent of the rags in each bale shall be white or light colored or white body striped materials.

IV. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

See Section V, Detail requirements.

V. DETAIL REQUIREMENTS

1. Size.—The minimum size of cloths shall have an area of at least 2 square feet and a minimum width of 10 inches. The maximum area shall not exceed 6 square feet. The maximum dimension shall not exceed 36 inches.

2. Weight.—The maximum weight of any rags shall not exceed approximately 6 ounces per square yard. Not over half of the rags (by weight) shall be over 4 ounces per square yard.

3. Requirement Table.—

Gross weight of bale in pounds (nominal)	Volume of bale (approximate)	Tare (maximum)
	Cubic feet	*Per cent*
50	2½- 3½	6
100	5 - 7	6
600	25 -35	5

A variation of plus or minus 10 per cent from the nominal weight of individual bales will be permitted.

4. Moisture and Tare Content.—If the weight of wrapping, including hoops or ties, exceeds the amount specified in the requirement table, or if the moisture content exceeds 7 per cent, the excess weight shall be deducted at the same price per pound that is paid for the rags; provided, further, that if the tare exceeds 10 per cent of the gross weight, or the moisture content exceeds 10 per cent, the rags may be rejected.

5. Washing and Sterilization.—All the rags shall be carefully washed and sterilized. If specified, the washing and sterilization shall be performed as follows: Wash for not less than 15 minutes in a heavy suds, containing approximately one-half of 1 per cent of calcium hypochlorite, at a temperature of 212° F. or over. Rinse in hot and cold water until no trace of alkali remains in the rinsing water. Extract and dry.

VI. METHOD OF INSPECTION AND TESTS

1. Sampling.—A 1-pound sample shall be taken from each bale when a shipment is 10 bales or less. Over 10 bales a 1-pound sample shall be taken from each one-tenth of the shipment. In addition to the samples required for the regular tests, immediately after the total weight of the material is obtained a sample approximately 1 to 1½ pounds shall be pulled out and weighed to the nearest ⅛ ounce. This sample shall be properly marked with identification and weight, wrapped in strong paper, and retained for test in case of dispute in regard to the moisture content.

2. Moisture and Tare Content.—The determination of moisture and tare content shall follow the testing procedure agreed upon by the contracting parties, such as the bone-dry or similar methods.

3. Moisture Content (Umpire Test).—In the event of a disagreement in regard to moisture content, the following procedure shall be used.

The sample prepared for this purpose (see VI, 1) shall be shipped to a conditioning laboratory, where it shall be exposed for at least four hours to an atmosphere of 65 per cent relative humidity at 70° F. and then weighed with equivalent accuracy. When the moisture content exceeds 7 per cent, the whole of the shipment may be based on the corrected weight of the sample.

$$\text{Wt. of bale conditioned} = \frac{(\text{Wt. of bale}) \times (\text{Wt. of sample conditioned})}{\text{Wt. of sample as pulled out}}$$

4. When the sterilization and washing stated in V, 5, are specified the factory shall be accessible to the purchaser's authorized inspectors.

5. In cases of disagreement regarding sterilization, bacteriological tests shall be made.

VII. PACKING AND MARKING OF SHIPMENTS

Unless otherwise specified, the material shall be properly baled in clean burlap and well secured with hoops or ties.

VIII. NOTES

1. These cloths are intended for wiping purposes and should be as absorbent as possible. The limits of the size are fixed so that any one rag can be easily held in the hand.

2. Section V, 5, requires factory inspection and should not be specified unless the size of the shipment and/or other exigencies warrant it. Attention is also called to the fact that the bacteriological test for sterilization is a very lengthy and expensive test.

3. The larger bales conform to general commercial practice and should be purchased wherever practicable.

ADDITIONAL COPIES
OF THIS PUBLICATION MAY BE PROCURED FROM
THE SUPERINTENDENT OF DOCUMENTS
U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE
WASHINGTON, D. C.
AT
5 CENTS PER COPY
▽